

Please replace the ABSTRACT on page 24 with the following rewritten paragraph on a separate page:

**Amendment to the Abstract:**

[0038] The present invention is directed at a tire design, which allows for proper operational characteristics in all operating conditions, and is not dependent on pneumatic pressurization. The tire is mounted in a wheel rim, and comprises an integral homogeneous toroidal body having a pair of spaced-apart radially extending sidewalls and a cross member, wherein an end of each sidewall integrally merges into the cross member. A set of rim-engaging surfaces exist at each rim-contacting sidewall end and allows effective mounting to conventional tire rims. An annular chamber is defined by the internal faces of the sidewalls and an internal top wall on the cross member opposite the at least one road engaging surface. The set of rim-engaging surfaces includes a ~~lobe-like~~ thickened portion, which ~~are~~ are separable when the tire is not mounted on the rim and close the annular chamber when compressed into engagement when mounting the tire in the rim.